

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for building a group of computer programs selected from at least one group of computer programs on a selected computer of a plurality of computers, said plurality of computers being networked to a computer system having a user interface, said method comprising:
 - displaying a list of said at least one group of computer programs so as to allow a user to select a group to be built, each of said at least one group of computer programs having a set of specific environmental requirements in which said group of computer programs is to be compiled and executed;
 - displaying a list of said plurality of computers, each of said plurality of computers having at least one environmental characteristic;
 - receiving a user's selection of a group of computer programs from said list of said at least one group of computer programs;
 - determining each computer capable of building the selected group of computer programs based on said at least one environmental characteristic;
 - indicating each said capable computer on said list of the computers; and
 - designating a capable computer in response to the user's selection of a computer from said list of the computers.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - displaying a list of user-selectable options.

3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
determining available build options for the selected computer; and
indicating said available build options on said list of user-selectable options.
4. A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
executing, in response to a user-selectable option being selected, a build process
for the selected group of computer programs using the selected computer.
5. A method according to claim 4, further comprising:
outputting a result of said executing the build process.
6. A method according to claim 2, wherein said user-selectable options include at
least one of:
building a group of computer programs;
testing a group of computer programs;
checking a group of computer programs;
removing existing computer programs and files from a specific location assigned
to a selected group; and
logging a result of executing a selected build option.
7. A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
determining available processes for a user-selectable option being selected; and

displaying a list of said available processes.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said determining each computer

includes:

obtaining said at least one environmental characteristic of each computer; and

comparing said at least one environmental characteristic with said specific
environmental requirements of the selected group of computer programs.

9. A method according to claim 8, further comprising:

maintaining a file containing environmental characteristics of the computers; and

reading said at least one environmental characteristic of each computer from said
file.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said maintaining includes updating said
environmental characteristics of the computers contained in said file.

11. A method according to claim 8, wherein said at least one environmental
characteristic is obtained by making a query to said computers.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one environmental
characteristic of the computer includes at least one of a number of CPUs within the
computer, CPU architecture, a bus width, a version and type of an operating system, and
average load of the computer.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein in said indicating includes highlighting each said capable computer on said list of the computers.

14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said set of specific environmental requirements includes at least one of a number of CPUs, CPU architecture, a bus width, and a type and version of an operating system.

15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one group of computer programs is at least one library.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said set of specific environmental requirements includes at least one of a number of CPUs, CPU architecture, a bus width, a type and version of an operating system, a method of compiling, and a link type of a library.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said displaying a list of said at least one group of computer programs includes showing at least one of said specific environmental requirements for each library.

18. In a software developing environment, a tool for building a group of computer programs selected from at least one group of computer programs on a selected computer

of a plurality of computers, said plurality of computers being networked to a computer system having a user interface, said tool comprising:

a display interface allowing a user to make a selection, including:

a list of said at least one group of computer programs, each said group of computer programs having a set of specific environmental requirements in which said group of computer programs is to be compiled and executed; and

a list of said plurality of computers, each of said plurality of computers having at least one environmental characteristic;

a group selector receiving and implementing a user's selection of a group of programs from said list of said at least one group of computer programs;

a computer determiner to determine each computer capable of building the selected group of computer programs based on said at least one environmental characteristic;

a computer indicator for indicating each said capable computer on said list of the computers; and

a computer selector, responsive to the user's selection of a computer on said list of the computer, to designate a corresponding capable computer from among said plurality of computers in the system.

19. A tool according to claim 18, wherein said display interface further includes a list of user-selectable options.

20. A tool according to claim 19, further comprising:

an option indicator, responsive to the user's selection of a computer, to determine available build options for the selected computer and to indicate said available build options on said list of user-selectable options.

21. A tool according to claim 20, further comprising:

a build controller, responsive to the user's selection of a build option, to execute a build process for the selected group of programs using the selected computer in accordance with the selected build option.

22. A tool according to claim 21, wherein said build controller outputs a result executing the build process.

23. A tool according to claim 19, wherein said user-selectable options include at least one of:

building a group of computer programs;

testing a group of computer programs;

checking a group of computer programs;

removing existing computer programs and files from a specific location assigned to a selected group; and

logging a result of executing a selected build option.

24. A tool according to claim 19, wherein said option indicator further determines available processes for a user-selectable option being selected, and displays a list of said available processes on said display interface.
25. A tool according to claim 18, wherein said computer determiner includes:
a properties determiner for obtaining said at least one environmental characteristic of the computers; and
a comparer for comparing said at least one environmental characteristic with the environmental requirements of the selected group of computer programs.
26. A tool according to claim 18, wherein said computer determiner further includes:
a file for storing the environmental characteristics of the computers.
27. A tool according to claim 26, wherein said computer determiner further includes:
a file maintainer for updating said environmental characteristics of the computers contained in said file.
28. A tool according to claim 25, wherein said properties determiner makes a query to the computers to obtain said at least one environmental characteristic.
29. A tool according to claim 18, wherein said at least one environmental characteristic of the computer includes at least one of a number of CPUs within the

computer, CPU architecture, a bus width, a version and type of an operating system, and average load of the computer.

30. A tool according to claim 18, wherein said computer indicator highlights each said capable computer on said list of the computers.

31. A tool according to claim 18, wherein said set of specific environmental requirements includes at least one of a number of CPUs required, CPU architecture, a bus width, and a type and version of an operating system.

32. A tool according to claim 18, wherein said groups of computer programs are libraries.

33. A tool according to claim 32, wherein said set of specific environmental requirements includes at least one of a number of CPUs, CPU architecture, a bus width, a type and version of an operating system, a method of compiling, and a link type of a library.

34. A tool according to claim 33, wherein said list of said at least one group of computer programs includes at least one of said specific environmental requirements associated with each library.

35. An apparatus for building a group of computer programs selected from at least one group of computer programs on a selected computer of a plurality of computers, said plurality of computers being networked to a computer system having a user interface, said apparatus comprising:

means for displaying a list of said at least one group of computer programs so as to allow a user to select a group to be built, each said group of computer programs having a set of specific environmental requirements in which said group of computer programs is to be compiled and executed;

means for displaying a list of said plurality of computers, each of said plurality of computers having at least one environmental characteristic;

means for receiving a user's selection of a group of computer programs from said list of at least one group of computer programs;

means for determining each computer capable of building the selected group of programs based on said at least one environmental characteristic;

means for indicating each said capable computer on said list of the computers;

and

means for designating a capable computer in response to the user's selection of a computer from said list of computers.

36. An apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising:

means for displaying a list of user-selectable options.

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37. An apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising:
- means for determining available build options for the selected computer; and
 - means for indicating said available build options on said list of user-selectable options.
38. An apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising:
- means for executing, in response to a user-selectable option being selected, a build process for the selected group of computer programs using the selected computer.
39. An apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising:
- means for outputting a result of said executing the build process.
40. An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said user-selectable options include at least one of:
- building a group of computer programs;
 - testing a group of computer programs;
 - checking a group of computer programs;
 - removing existing computer programs and files from a specific location assigned to a selected group; and
 - logging a result of executing a selected build option.
41. An apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising:

means for determining available processes for a user-selectable option being selected; and

means for displaying a list of said available processes.

42. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said means for determining each computer includes:

means for obtaining said at least one environmental characteristic of each computer; and

means for comparing said at least one environmental characteristic with said specific environmental requirements of the selected group of computer programs.

43. An apparatus according to claim 42, further comprising:

means for maintaining a file containing environmental characteristics of the computers; and

means for reading said at least one environmental characteristic of each computer from said file.

44. An apparatus according to claim 43, said means for maintaining includes means for updating said environmental characteristics of the computers contained in said file.

45. An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said means for obtaining includes means for making a query to said computers to obtain said at least one environmental characteristic.

46. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said at least one environmental characteristic of the computer includes at least one of a number of CPUs within the computer, CPU architecture, a bus width, a version and type of an operating system, and average load of the computer.
47. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein in said means for indicating includes means for highlighting each said capable computer on said list of the computers.
48. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said set of specific environmental requirements includes at least one of a number of CPUs, CPU architecture, a bus width, and a type and version of an operating system.
49. An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said at least one group of computer programs are at least one library.
50. An apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said set of specific environmental requirements includes at least one of a number of CPUs, CPU architecture, a bus width, a type and version of an operating system, An apparatus of compiling, and a link type of a library.

51. An apparatus according to claim 50, wherein said means for displaying a list of said at least one group of computer programs includes means for showing at least one of said specific environmental requirements for each library.

52. A program storage device readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for building a group of computer programs selected from at least one group of computer programs on a selected computer of a plurality of computers networked to a computer system having a user interface, said method comprising:

displaying a list of said at least one group of computer programs so as to allow a user to select a group to be built, each of said at least one group of computer programs having a set of specific environmental requirements in which said group of computer programs is to be compiled and executed;

displaying a list of said plurality of computers, each of said plurality of computers having at least one environmental characteristic;

receiving a user's selection of a group of computer programs from said at least one group;

determining each computer capable of building the selected group of programs based on said at least one environmental characteristic;

indicating each said capable computer on said list of the computers; and

designating a capable computer in response to the user's selection of a computer from said list of computers.